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tives of high power and short working distance, may become, with low powers, large enough to destroy the usefulness of the common methods of measurement of the lenses measured, a $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch varied from 36° to 38° telescopic aperture to $39\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ microscopic, while a 3-inch ranged from $13\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ to 19° . Change of draw-tube caused a variation of several degrees.

A NEW JOURNAL.—The (English) Postal Microscopical Society has undertaken the publication of a quarterly journal, the first number of which appeared in March. It is edited by the very able Hon. Sec'y of the Society, Mr. A. Allen, of Bath, and published by W. P. Collins, of London. Its primary object is the preservation of the most important notes and drawings from the note-books of the Society; but it will also contain original papers, notes, extracts, and correspondence upon microscopical subjects. It will be freely illustrated, and will doubtless prove an entertaining and instructive visitor.

SUMMER SCHOOL OF BIOLOGY.—Microscopists can enjoy rare opportunities for sea-shore collecting and laboratory work, at the Summer School of Biology of the Peabody Academy of Science, which opens at Salem, Mass., on July 11, and continues four weeks. Among the special advantages for microscopical students, will be a course of lectures on physiological botany, by Professor C. E. Bessey, of Iowa, and a course on anatomy and physiology of vertebrates, by Professor A. H. Tuttle, of Ohio.

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SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

— It appears that the hunting of alligators in Florida is carried on to such an extent as to threaten the extirpation of the species there. Nothing is used except the skins on the belly and legs. The rough scaly plates on the back are rejected. The heads are cut off and buried for a few days, till the tusks can be detached. It was announced lately that one person had collected alligators' teeth to the amount of three hundred and fifty pounds. This will give some idea of the destruction going on. On the St. John's river a new method of hunting has been devised. A dark lantern, with a powerful reflector, is used on suitable nights; and no difficulty is experienced in approaching the quarry. The animals seem bewildered with the strong glare, and make no effort to escape. The gun is held within a few feet of the head—a touch to the trigger, and there is one "gator" less in Florida. This process is very effective, and the hunters are enabled, not only to kill, but to secure their prey. Large numbers of these animals are slain annually by tourists for amusement only, besides those slaughtered for profit. Further, many young alligators are stuffed as specimens, or sent off alive as curiosities, while myriads of eggs are blown or disposed of by dealers.—*English Mechanic*.

— The views of Dr. Hahn, as to the presence of organic structures in meteorites, have been refuted by Professor Carl Vogt, who, in a memoir presented to the French Academy of Sciences, affirms that Dr. Hahn has no foundation for his conclusions, and that in no single case do the pretended organic structures present the microscopic appearance of the organisms for which they have been mistaken.—*English Mechanic*.

— G. T. Wettermann, Director of the Museum Koninklijk Zoölogisch Genootschap, Amsterdam, Holland, writes that within a short time the new aquarium buildings, recently erected in the gardens, will be opened, not only for the recreation of the members of the society but to audiences for the academical course of zoölogy, as well as for laboratories for anatomical research. Director Wettermann states that naturally all sorts of sea animals will be needed for the work, and requests the addresses of aquaria in America that will enter into a mutual exchange of marine animals or will dispose of them by sale. He expresses a wish to have as much as possible of the American submarine fauna represented in their tanks.

— James Geikie, LL. D., author of the "Great Ice Age," and for twenty-one years a member of the Geological Survey of Great Britain and Ireland, has recently received the appointment to the Murchison Professorship of Mineralogy and Geology in the University of Edinburgh, made vacant by the appointment of his brother, Professor Archibald Geikie, to the director-generalship of the Geological Survey. He has resigned his position in the survey and enters upon his duties in the University in May.

— But two summer schools of science will apparently be opened to students this coming season, one at Annisquam, Cape Ann, Mass., under the charge of Professor A. Hyatt, curator of the Boston Society of Natural History; the other is the summer school of biology of the Peabody Academy of Science, Salem, Mass. Both offer good facilities for study.

— We are asked by Professor E. S. Morse to correct a mistake on page 326 of the *NATURALIST* in reference to the Japanese students. Mr. Ijima and Mr. Iwakawa have never been abroad, what they have acquired has been learned in Japan. Mr. Mitsuikuri was a fellow at Johns Hopkins University and was a student of Professor W. K. Brooks.

— The Princeton College Exploring Expedition obtained a skull of the Eocene mammal *Achænodon insolens* Cope, whose position has been heretofore doubtful. It turns out to be a flesh-eater of the family *Arctocyonidae*, and is the largest species known. It was a formidable animal, as large as a brown bear, and is probably the ancestral type from which bears were derived. Messrs. Scott and Osborne will publish a memoir on it in the Contributions of the Museum of Geology and Archæology.—*E. D. Cope*.